

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Family Preservation Component Budget Summary

Component: Family Preservation

Contribution to Department's Mission

Family Preservation delivers services that help children and families at risk or in crisis. Support services include intensive pre-placement services to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely in the family home. Family Preservation services also comprise follow-up care to families after a foster care placement or after a child abuse and neglect investigation has been substantiated.

Core Services

The Family Preservation component provides funding for Family Support, Family Preservation, and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants.

Family Support services are community-based preventive activities designed to increase the strength, stability and well being of children and families including adoptive, foster and extended families. These services also serve to increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities, to afford children a stable and supportive family environment, and to otherwise enhance child development.

Time-Limited Family Reunification grants serve families with a child in foster care or in a child care institution. This program facilitates the timely reunification of the child and family safely and appropriately. Services include in-home visits, parent support groups, supervised visitation, and other programs designed to improve parenting skills.

Independent Living services support education, vocational training and life skills of youth in foster care as they enter early adulthood. These youths, 16 years and older, frequently lack the family or financial support and guidance needed to gain self-sufficiency in adulthood. Services provided to help these youths gain self-sufficiency include life skills assessments; transition learning plans; exit plans that identify a youth's goals for education, employment, housing, health care, mental health care, and family/community connections; financial assistance, and identification of additional resources the youth may require.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) programs furnish a child friendly environment for multiple agencies to coordinate child sexual abuse investigations. There are currently seven CAC's in Alaska funded with federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds.

The Family Preservation component also funds Child Protective Services child care to furnish respite to parents at risk of abusing their children. Parents are also able to participate in medical and treatment programs.

This component maintains the Children's Justice Act (CJA) federal grant. These grant funds support a State Task Force whose mission is to *"Identify areas where improvement is needed in the statewide response to child maltreatment particularly child sexual abuse, make recommendations and take actions to improve the system."* The grant also is designed to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.

The Community Based Family Resource and Support Programs (CBFRS) deliver support to develop, operate, expand, and enhance a network of community-based, prevention-focused, family resource and support programs. Within Alaska there are currently five CBFRS network agencies and six CBFRS Family Resource Programs. These programs offer assistance to families; provide early, comprehensive support for parents; promote the development of parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children; increase family stability; improve family access to other formal and informal resources and opportunities for assistance available within communities; support the additional needs of families with children with disabilities through respite care and other services; and decrease the risk of homelessness. Additionally, the networks foster the development of a continuum of preventive services for children and families through state and community-based public and private partnerships.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$12,289,900	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Provide Services Within Legal Time Limits: Children and families referred or mandated to receive services are presenting more severe behaviors and experiences which require much more intensive intervention in order to preserve or support the family unit. Alaska's child welfare law, along with new federal laws, require services be delivered in a manner that is time-limited. This increases the intensity of services required and minimizes the amount of time parents can take to ameliorate the issues placing their children at risk.

Alignment of OCS grant programs to support families: OCS is continuing its effort to conduct a comprehensive assessment and review of the division's grant programs in order to determine if services provided are adequate, appropriate and aligned with current program and practice goals. By bringing together internal and external stakeholders to examine this issue, the result should include a continuum of appropriate services from prevention to early intervention for children and their families.

The Independent Living (IL) Program provides services to youth who "age out" of foster care and are often ill prepared to live independently. OCS assesses the needs of each child at the age of 14 to develop individual independent living plans to aid in the transition out of foster care and assist the child towards responsible adulthood. The program continues to identify critical areas where the IL program could improve and expand service delivery and support for youth. Priorities currently identified that will result in positive outcomes include access to educational materials regarding legal arrangements such as conservatorships, guardianships, and financial trusts; a needs assessment of the population exiting care and the service capacity within the state; program revisions that address the additional financial needs of youth with disabilities; increased efforts to plan for the proper disbursement and use of trust funds, in particular Permanent Fund Dividend trust funds; assessments of youth in care that provide information on the use of current mental health services that would provide a baseline for service available in communities for young people; development of educational opportunities for youth in care and out of care on health, nutrition, substance abuse, and reproductive health.

Increasing the Number of Available Foster Homes: OCS must continue to improve its recruitment efforts, most notably in increasing its Alaska Native foster homes. Enhanced foster parent recruiting efforts will increase the number of available foster homes that are culturally relevant and safe for children in need of placement in both rural and urban settings.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment for Parents: Parental substance abuse significantly impacts the success of intervention. With the increase in the use of drugs and/or alcohol by parents, intervention and support services are not as effective. This frequently leads to the removal of the child or failed family reunification efforts. The provision of substance abuse treatment services is essential to the success of other efforts.

Supported Parenting Project: Providing family-centered care to parents with special needs is important for the healthy development of the child. With the right types of services and supports, parents with special needs and their families can remain together. The Mental Health Trust has made funding available for beneficiaries who experience mental illness, mental retardation or similar disabilities, chronic alcoholism with psychosis, or Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

Minimize Trauma to the Child: The OCS aims to minimize the trauma related to sexual or severe physical abuse through its Child Advocacy Centers. These Child Advocacy Centers provide a comfortable atmosphere for purposes of a taped interview and if necessary a sexual abuse medical examination. They eliminate the need for multiple interviews by including all the pertinent agencies from the beginning of the investigation.

Improve the Handling of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Cases: With the Children's Justice Act federal grant, OCS evaluates and makes recommendations on improving the state's response to child abuse and neglect. The Children's

Justice Act State Task Force focuses on removing the barriers across disciplines to respond more effectively to child sexual abuse cases. The Children's Justice Act State Task Force is responsible for undertaking a comprehensive review and evaluation of law, policy and the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, as well as training and policy recommendations.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) provide child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse victims age 0 through 18 and their non-offending parents a safe, child-friendly place to interview, receive forensic medical examinations, and mental health services or referrals.

The foundation of a CAC is the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) that is comprised of community, tribal, medical, social service, and legal representatives. MDTs, while never working directly with a victim, guide a case through the investigatory process that may lead to prosecution while making certain all non-offending family members receive the appropriate services to help them through the trauma. The CAC provides the best forum in which an investigation can occur to assure victims are not re-traumatized by repeated interviews and examinations.

In 2002, the then Division of Family and Youth Services received and utilized federal grants from the United State Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to establish and operate Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska. OCS has established and helped to maintain seven fully functioning CAC's located in Juneau, Wasilla, Anchorage, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham, and Fairbanks. To date, the CACs in Juneau, Anchorage, and Wasilla are nationally accredited and Fairbanks CAC accreditation is pending.

In FY 2007, OCS Child Protective Services screened-in 2,837 reports of child sexual and physical abuse. Of these 2,837 reports, 1,378 or 49% were referred to Alaska's Child Advocacy Centers.

To date, a good portion of the costs to establish Alaska's CACs and MDTs have been funded through OJJDP federal grants that will likely not be available beyond FY 2008. Once established, the CACs work hard to find other sources of support through grants and fund raisers, but the OCS recognizes the need to continue support. It also recognizes a need for additional CACs and has established a goal of two new CACs in FY 2009.

Family-to-Family (F2F) is a nationwide initiative originally funded by the Rasmuson Foundation in 2005 and 2006 with technical assistance provided by the Anne E. Casey Foundation. F2F works to change child welfare systems through support provided to resource families, building community partnerships, and team decision making (TDM) that includes not just foster parents and caseworkers but birth families and community members.

F2F is a commitment by the Office of Children's Services to improve the outcomes for children and families with an emphasis on safety, stability, permanence, and well-being using strategies successfully implemented by child welfare organizations throughout the United States. It involves strategically implementing system improvements to:

Reduce:

1. The number of children placed away from their families.
2. The number of children in institutional care.
3. The disproportionate numbers of Alaska Native children placed in out-of-home care.
4. The time children spend in out-of-home placements.
5. The number of children re-entering placement.
6. The number of changes children experience while within state custody.

Increase:

1. Reunification of children with their families.
2. The number of siblings placed together.

3. The number of children placed in their own culture and community.

The F2F initiative began in Anchorage in 2004, and while specific data in support of its successes will not be readily available for several months, Anne E. Casey reports that "in Alaska, 70 percent of the children who received a Team Decision Making Meeting...were able to stay at home with their birth family or a relative rather than a foster home."

The OCS is hopeful that it will have the resources to continue its work F2F and to begin expansion of the program statewide.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

Child Protective Childcare Services Supplied: OCS provided funding for Child Protective Services child care that provided respite to parents at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. Parents also participated in medical and treatment programs.

Support Child Advocacy Centers: OCS continues to provide support to Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska. These centers perform forensic interviews and medical examinations for victims suspected of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

Family Preservations Grants: OCS administered and managed over 140 outgoing grants to provide services in support of families.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- AS 47.05.010 Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions, duties of department.
- AS 47.10 Children in Need of Aid.
- AS 47.17 Child Protection.
- 7 AAC 50 Community Care Licensing.
- 7 AAC 51 Child Placement Agencies.
- 7 AAC 53 Social Services.

Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act
 Children's Justice Act
 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

Contact Information
<p>Contact: Laura Baker, Budget Chief Phone: (907) 465-1629 Fax: (907) 465-1850 E-mail: Laura.Baker@alaska.gov</p>

**Family Preservation
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	80.0	121.3	121.3
73000 Services	1,384.3	1,103.1	1,253.1
74000 Commodities	17.8	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	7,211.3	9,216.2	10,915.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	8,693.4	10,440.6	12,289.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	7,723.5	7,440.0	7,440.0
1003 General Fund Match	400.0	0.0	0.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	440.8	2,300.7	4,000.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	129.1	699.9	699.9
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	0.0	0.0	75.0
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	0.0	0.0	75.0
Funding Totals	8,693.4	10,440.6	12,289.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	7,723.5	7,440.0	7,440.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	129.1	699.9	699.9
Restricted Total		7,852.6	8,139.9	8,139.9
Total Estimated Revenues		7,852.6	8,139.9	8,139.9

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	2,300.7	7,440.0	699.9	10,440.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer in General Funds from Medicaid Services due to Elimination of Proshare Financing	76.9	0.0	0.0	76.9
Proposed budget increases:				
-Discontinue Private ProShare Refinancing	322.4	0.0	0.0	322.4
-Continued Support for Child Advocacy Centers	1,300.0	0.0	0.0	1,300.0
-MH Trust: BTKH - Foster Parent and Parent Services: recruit, train, support	75.0	0.0	75.0	150.0
FY2009 Governor	4,075.0	7,440.0	774.9	12,289.9